

# Review of 'European Social Movements and Muslim Activism: Another World but with Whom?' by Timothy Peace

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***European Social Movements and Muslim Activism: Another World but with Whom?* by Timothy Peace. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015. 196pp., £60.00 (h/b), ISBN 9781137463999.**

This book utilises theories of framing processes, discursive opportunity structures and political opportunity structures to uncover the ways in which social movements respond to religious pluralism by analysing the different motivations and outcomes of British and French Muslims' participation in the alter-globalisation movement. While religion remains an important element that shapes Muslims' public identities, Timothy Peace proposes that it is not *in itself* the predominant factor driving the mobilisation of Muslims, insofar as these are able to operate as autonomous political actors.

Peace's work makes a uniquely original contribution by unearthing the ideological and operational tensions that characterise the different nature of Muslims' involvement in the alter-globalisation movement in the two countries under investigation. On the one hand, British activists have accepted and valued the religious pluralism that Muslims can offer to the movement. On the other hand, French activists have shown less tolerance to Muslim participation and have particularly resented it when such participation threatens the very French idea of *laïcité républicaine* (republican secularism). This book demonstrates that Muslims interact with social movements in heterogeneous fashions that are highly dependent on political contexts and social dispositions towards diversity and religion.

Peace's exploration of the motivations for, reactions to and outcomes of Muslim involvement in social movements is mediated through a fact-driven and theoretically sound approach that makes this book an excellent piece of scholarship. A minor fault of the book is that several notes provide important additions and explanations that could have been integrated within the main text. But there is little else to fault in this book, which represents the first serious comparative analysis of the relationship between Muslims and the alter-globalisation movement in two socio-politically very distinct European countries. *European Social Movements and Muslim Activism* develops our understanding of the relationship between Muslims and both civil society and the Left, and will spur European scholarship to further explore the interaction of social movements with religion and politics in contemporary times.

This book is particularly suitable for political scientists and postgraduate and final-year undergraduate students of comparative politics, social movements and Islamic studies. Peace usefully avoids jargon-heavy, obscure language and skilfully combines academic rigour with a clear and coherent prose. Therefore, this book will also be a sought-after resource for those non-academic users, such as government officers, activists and journalists, who have an interest in the formation and development of Muslim activism within social movements in Europe.

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